



# GEORGETOWN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

*"promoting natural resource conservation through the use of public notification, conservation education, sound technical information, and direct personal assistance."*



Pictured left to right: Associate Commissioner Elery Little, Chairman Mickey Lankford, Commissioners Wayne Avant, Nathaniel Ruth, Peggy Williams, Associate Commissioner Kenny Williams, and Commissioner Mark Johnson. Not pictured is Associate Commissioner Morgan Gray.

## *From our Commissioners—2007 in Review*

2007 will probably best be remembered for the late freeze in April and as another in a string of droughts that seem to be occurring every five years or so. The late freeze injured or killed much of the early corn and tobacco. Many people had to replant these crops after the April freeze. After this, the crops were growing well until the rainfall stopped at the end of May and no consistent rainfall fell within the growing season. Through all of this, the District continued to provide conservation advice and assistance to its customers to help them persevere. The District is also always looking for new educational opportunities with landowner workshops, classroom presentations, and natural resource education camps. In 2008, plans are to add scholarships for students planning to further their education in the field of natural resources.

The year 2007 was another very busy one for state, federal and private conservation entities in South Carolina. State and federal agencies and other interest groups worked as conservation partners to accomplish noteworthy gains in land protection, soil and water quality protection, wildlife habitat enhancement and invasive weed control.

The Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District supports land protection on private lands and will hold conservation easements for private land in Georgetown County. The Conservation District has partnered with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and the South Carolina Conservation Bank to make the purchase of easements possible. These easements allow for the protection from development while maintaining the traditional land uses, such as agriculture, silviculture, wildlife habitat management, and recreational hunting.

The Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District also supports protection of soil and water quality and wildlife habitat protection and enhancement through education and cost share assistance programs such as the Farm and Ranchland Protection (FRPP). Locally, the Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District helps to coordinate cost share funds with private landowners. The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service develops and manages cost share contracts with private landowners for such programs as the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

One particularly successful program is the SC Partners Program which is supported by a number of conservation partners including the USDA, SC Department of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited and US Fish and Wildlife Service. The SC Partners has just completed its tenth anniversary in 2007. To date, over 6480 acres of tidal managed wetland habitat has been enhanced to the benefit of waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, raptors and passerine birds. NRCS, with support from the District, has contributed funding since the Partners were formed in 1997. Other funding contributors were US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Important technical assistance in support of the SC Partners also included the SC Department of Natural Resources and Ducks Unlimited.



# EDUCATION

## Envirothon Competition

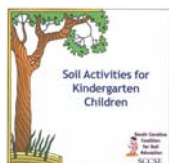
Georgetown County was represented again in 2007 by a team from Andrews High School. Kristen Jacobs coached a team of 5 members on soils, water, forestry, wildlife, and current governmental issues to prepare for this competition. The team traveled to the Sandhills Research Center in Columbia to compete against other teams from around the state. The 2007 Envirothon Team members were: Amber King, Amanda Foy, Olivia Foy, Melissa Fuentes, and Whitney Kellahan.



## South Carolina Institute for Natural Resource Conservation

Lander University in the upstate is the setting for one of the most exciting workshops offered to students. This weeklong environmental camp is open to juniors and seniors who express an interest in natural resources and attending college. Generally held in June of each year, the participants explore our state's natural resources, learn why and how conservation impacts our daily lives, and forge new friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. This camp is hosted by Lander University's College of Science and Mathematics and sponsored by the South Carolina Conservation District's Association and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Interested students should call the District office for more information.

## Soils Kits for Kindergarten



The Georgetown Conservation District continues to provide Soils Kits to kindergarten classes in the county. Because of the similarity of objectives for this topic, some third grade teachers have shown an interest in the soil samples. The District will continue to provide the kits for education. The Soils Kits consist of a three ring binder that includes a five day lesson plan, clip art, games, and certificates along with a copy of the state standards for kindergarten and third grades. A CD is provided with all of this information. The soil samples are in individual zip lock bags with identification labels and are kept in a plastic box with a lid.

## 2007 CONSERVATION DISTRICT ESSAY CONTEST FOR SEVENTH GRADE

The conservation district's 2007 essay contest was a huge success with all four middle schools participating. The topic of the essay *"Soil as a Building Block for Life"* challenged the seventh graders and the end result was our best essay contest ever. The winners from each school received cash awards as well as the teacher of the first place essay in each school. The 2007 Essay contest Winners were:



### CARVERS BAY MIDDLE

Principal Darryl Stanley, First Place—Unique Gardner; Second Place—Jocelin Cohens; and teacher Diptesh Kundu.



### GEORGETOWN MIDDLE

Principal Rosemary Gray, First Place—Allie Mazone; Second Place—Devon Smith; and teacher Nina Runion.



### ROSEMARY MIDDLE

Principal Michael Cavaris, Second Place—Steven Hewitt; First Place—Trevor Davis; and teacher Barbara Player.



### WACCAMAW MIDDLE

Second Place—Jordan Clarke; teacher Kathie Rasheed; and First Place—Cameron Reid.





## Carolina Coastal Adventure

The Carolina Coastal Adventure is an educational experience focused on freshwater and marine resources and is open to any 9th and 10th grade students. It is held in Pinopolis in Berkeley County, at the Somerset Facility on Lake Moultrie, in the fall of each year. The goal of this educational workshop is to help each student realize that healthy aquatic ecosystems are valuable resources that provide human communities with clean water, food, recreation, and unique cultural traditions. Activities include classroom instruction in water quality analysis and watersheds, canoeing in a cypress swamp at Old Santee Canal Park, and a tour of the Jeffries Steam Plant on the Tail Race Canal. Representing Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District at the 2007 Carolina Coastal Adventure were Mick Lankford and David Buck of Waccamaw High School.

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## South Carolina Commissioner's School for Agriculture

The SCCSA was a new venture for the District in 2007. We were lucky to sponsor two girls from Andrews High School, Amber King and Whitney Elliott, for this program. It is open for all 10th, 11th and 12th grade students who have a genuine interest in pursuing a college degree relating to Agriculture, Natural Resources, and related sciences. *"The South Carolina Commissioner's School for Agriculture is a premier career and leadership development summer program that informs, inspires and challenges student participants to consider a career in agricultural, natural resource and life science industries, and to be model citizens of leadership and influence these industries as they embrace an agriculturalist philosophy."* The primary goal of the SCCSA is to increase students' understanding and appreciation of South Carolina's second largest industry and the people, products and career opportunities available in this industry. Also, students are exposed to the processes and requirements for college applications, financial aid requests, career development, communication and leadership. For more information, please call the District office.



## Classroom Presentations

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Natural Resources, Clemson Extension, and the Conservation District make classroom presentations at the request of schools throughout the year. Programs are presented on various topics concerning soil and water conservation to seventh graders. The goal of these classroom visits is to make the students more aware of their responsibility as future landowners and land users. This year, we visited Georgetown and Rosemary Middle Schools where approximately 500 students learned about soils and natural resources.



Debbie uses an apple to represent the world to these Rosemary Middle School Students.



Sam Ward with DNR shows how fast or how slow water goes through different types of soil.



These girls are comparing the different texture of the soils that Sam has supplied.



Sam demonstrates how long it takes for water to flow through different types of soil.



Debbie and Robin demonstrate runoff by using a container of rocks.

# DISTRICT NEWS

## 2007 Pee Dee Area Meeting



This year, the Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation was the host District for the Pee Dee Area Association of Conservation Districts' Annual Fall Meeting. The Meeting was held at the University of South Carolina's Kimbel Lodge at Hobcaw Barony near Georgetown in late September. Some 60 Conservation District affiliated people representing all thirteen Conservation Districts within the Pee Dee Area were in attendance. Activities offered to the attendees included tours of Brookgreen Gardens, the Hobcaw House, home of Belle W. Baruch, and the University of South Carolina's Marine Lab. Participants were treated to a Beaufort Stew and Chicken Bog. The evening concluded with presentations by Deanna Ruth with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources on Black Bears and Lee Brockington, (shown in picture at right) Senior Interpreter for the Belle W. Baruch Foundation.

## Landowner Workshop

Georgetown Conservation District sponsored a Pond Management Workshop for landowners. The workshop was held at the Folly Grove Community Center. Topics of discussion included water quality, stocking and harvesting, aquatic weed control, pond problems, construction and maintenance.

Jack Whetstone with Clemson Extension, Scott Lamprecht with DNR Fisheries, and Larry Cantrell with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service shared their knowledge with the group. The meeting was full of good information and was well attended. Jack Whetstone is shown in the picture at right giving his presentation.



## Phragmites Control Program Expanded

The highly successful Phragmites Control Program co-sponsored by the Georgetown Conservation District, the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, Clemson Extension, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Historic Ricefields Association, and the S.C. Nature Conservancy has been expanded to include water hyacinth. This highly invasive species choke many waterways within Georgetown and surrounding counties rendering them impassable. Landowners with water hyacinth on their property that would like to apply for cost share assistance may do so by contacting the Georgetown Conservation District to sign up. The program will function similarly to the Phragmites Control Program.

## 2007 Georgetown County Farmers Market

**Friendly faces.....**

**Fresh local produce.....**

**Local entertainment.....**

*The Georgetown County Farmers Market is open to the public from April until November. Please support our local farmers and vendors. For more information, call Paul McCulloch at (843) 545-3319.*





# CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

## Conservation Technical Assistance

The Natural Resources Conservation Service works in partnership with the Conservation District to provide technical assistance to the landowners of Georgetown County as well as local Government. Assistance includes conservation planning and installation of practices, wildlife habitat management, water quality, and quantity concerns.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP provides cost share assistance to install conservation practices on eligible land. Pasture planting, fencing, heavy use areas for livestock, nutrient management, and field borders are just a few of the practices available. In 2007, 5 contracts were approved for funding. The pictures below show the installation of the fabric for the heavy use area and the completed heavy use area.



## Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

WHIP provides cost share assistance for wildlife habitat improvements. Practices available include prescribed burning, permanent firebreaks, planting native grasses, and wildlife openings. Invasive species and wetland habitat management continue to also be included in the program. In 2007, 5 contracts covering 1200 acres received cost share.

## Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

This program is an easement program which protects and restores altered wetlands. In 2007, over 2400 acres were approved and funded with restoration scheduled to be completed in 2008.



## RC&D– Resource Conservation and Development

### **Small Farmer Initiative:**

The Santee Wateree continued with the second year of the Small Farmer grant and installed and demonstrated an additional 2 acres of drip irrigation and its benefits. Georgetown County Farmers have had a successful outlet for their products at the Georgetown Farmers Market located on North Fraser Street in Georgetown.

### **Dry Hydrants:**

Technical assistance for the design and installation of Dry Hydrants is provided to Georgetown County Fire Department in the rural areas of the county. Dry Hydrants provide an access to water and are predominantly installed in private ponds, for use in the surrounding community.

### **Morgan Park:**

RC&D council member Ernie Nance continues to serve on the Morgan Park committee. Plans are to provide a historical education component with the natural resource educational opportunities in the park.

### **Outreach Farm Garden:**

The garden, which the Conservation District and RC&D sponsor for the Boys at Tara Hall was once again a success. In 2007, RC&D provided the resources to have plastic covered beds with drip irrigation, which made for a bountiful harvest. The District and RC&D will continue to provide assistance and sponsor the garden each year with a fall and summer garden.



Plastic with the drip irrigation was installed at the garden in 2007



The summer garden provided the boys at Tara Hall with plenty of vegetables.



The boys enjoyed planting, working and picking the fall garden.

## 2007 AFFILIATE BANQUET

The Georgetown Soil & Water Conservation District honored its affiliate members with their Annual Banquet on November 5, 2007. Sam Ward once again prepared a meal of barbeque chicken with all the trimmings. Awards and door prizes were given to the lucky winners. Also recognized were the county students who participated in the educational programs sponsored by the district. The District would like to extend our appreciation to Senator Yancey McGill for his continued support, and to the following for the door prize contributions: Santee Electric Cooperative, Ducks Unlimited, Backwoods Quail Club, Fish House Restaurant, and Mt. Pleasant Plantation.

### Wildlife Conservationist of the Year - Mt. Pleasant Plantation



Nathaniel Ruth, manager of Mt. Pleasant Plantation, along with his daughter Katelyn, accept the award for Wildlife Conservationist of the year from Associate Commissioner Kenny Williams. Mt. Pleasant owner Henry Faison had challenged Mr. Ruth to restore the bobwhite quail population to historic levels through intensive, state-of-the-art habitat management practices.

### Conservation Farmer of the Year- Outreach Farm



Outreach Farm is a unique combination of farming and community assistance. They have a goal to provide beef to nonprofit organizations providing meals to those in need. They also have Conservation as a priority, practices include, prescribed grazing, heavy use areas, cross fencing, hay and pasture management are all part of their conservation plan. The farm is also the location for the garden that the boys from Tara Hall plant each year. Accepting the award from Commissioner Wayne Avant is Lex Legette, Myron Legette and Mike LoVullo.

### Educator of the Year - Barbara Player Rosemary Middle School



The Georgetown Conservation District is fortunate to have teachers who bring conservation of our land and water into their classrooms. This year's recipient is a seventh grade science teacher at Rosemary middle School where she has been for sixteen years. She uses many tools to energize her students which we are honored to be a part of. Ms. Player is shown above with Commissioner Nathaniel Ruth.

### Outstanding Service Award - Bo Barron



Bo Barron was awarded the Outstanding Service Award for 2007 because of his support and dedication to the success of the Georgetown County Farmers Market and helping our agricultural community prosper. With the inception of the Farmers Market in 2003, he helped with all aspects of the market. He not only visited other markets, but he also helped to incorporate the rules and regulations, and talked to many potential participants. Because of his commitment, the Market has grown from a handful of growers from Georgetown and our surrounding counties to a busy destination on a Saturday morning. Pictured above is Bo Barron on the right with Commissioner Mark Johnson.

### Affiliate Banquet Winners

The district is fortunate to have the support of many people to contribute to the door prizes at our banquets. This year, R.E. Williams and his wife Patsy (shown at left) were the winners of the panoramic view of Winyah Bay contributed by Delta signs. Steve Squires, at right, holds the print he won which was contributed by Ducks Unlimited. Herb Butler, not shown, won the print contributed by Senator Yancey McGill.





## 2007 AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Bates Hill Plantation  
Baxley Farms  
Robbie & Renee Boykin  
Bordeaux-Clark Group, Inc.  
Herbert Butler  
Cagle Construction  
Capps Farm  
Charles Ingram Lumber Company  
Ron Charlton  
Clermont Plantation  
James O. Creel  
Lonnie Creel

**\*\*SILENT MEMBERS**

Samuel O. Cribb  
Robert Delapp III  
Dover Plantation  
Edward Hickson  
W. Sherwyn Jacobs  
Low Country Forest Products  
James W. Moody  
Mosssdale Plantation  
Mt. Pleasant Plantation  
Kyle Daniel  
Jeffrey T. Owens  
Legrand Owens  
Martin Owens  
Phil Owens

Tommy Owens  
Truitt Owens  
Prevatte & Associates  
Wendell Powers  
Bob F. Roberts  
Roberts Paper Tubes  
Santee Cooper  
Santee Electric Cooperative  
Samuel K. Squires  
Stephen R. Squires  
Town of Pawleys Island  
Topsaw Land & Timber  
Wallace & Mary Catherine Vaught  
R.E. & Patsy Williams

**PLEASE GIVE!** It rewards Everyone—including YOURSELF!

Funding for the Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation District is provided strictly from affiliate membership dues, county funding, and state funding. The primary use of all funding is to provide the district office and board of commissioners with secretarial services, sponsor district projects such as conservation field days, youth workshops, educational seminars, and promote conservation stewardship. This means that they are able to go out and help educate **YOU** and **YOUR children** about the conservation world. Everyone is invited to be a member of this organization, *including YOU.*

If you want to be a part of something that will benefit you and the people around you, call the district office today and ask how you can become a member!



### Georgetown Conservation District

#### Commissioners

Mickey D. Lankford, Jr., Chairman  
Mark Johnson, Vice Chairman  
Peggy Williams, Sec./Treasurer  
Wayne Avant  
Nathaniel Ruth

#### Associate Commissioners

Elery L. Little  
Kenny Williams  
J. Morgan Gray

#### District Staff

Robin S. Munnerlyn, District Coordinator  
Debbie Mann, District Conservationist, USDA-NRCS  
Sam Ward, SC DNR-LWCD

The Georgetown Conservation District Commissioner's board meeting will be the third Monday of each month unless otherwise noted. Each meeting begins at 11:00 am in the USDA Service Center Conference Room at 1837 North Fraser Street. The public is cordially invited to

#### **NO-Till Grain Drill**

The district owned no-till grain drill is available for rent. It is located at the Munnerlyn Farm in the Rose Hill Community. Please call Robin at the district office or see Eddie Munnerlyn for any help with this equipment. The rental fee is \$7.00 per acre.

The Georgetown Soil and Water Conservation and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, and disability.



Georgetown Soil & Water  
Conservation District  
1837 North Fraser Street  
Georgetown, SC 29440